CHRONOLOGY OF MICHIGAN HISTORY

1618-1701

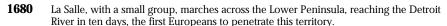
- 1618 Etienne Brulé passes through North Channel at the neck of Lake Huron; that same year (or during two following years) he lands at Sault Ste. Marie, probably the first European to look upon the Sault. The Michigan Native American population is approximately 15,000.
- 1621 Brulé returns, explores the Lake Superior coast, and notes copper deposits.
- 1634 Jean Nicolet passes through the Straits of Mackinac and travels along Lake Michigan's northern shore, seeking a route to the Orient.
- 1641 Fathers Isaac Jogues and Charles Raymbault conduct religious services at the Sault.
- 1660 Father René Mesnard establishes the first regular mission, held throughout winter at Keweenaw Bay.
- 1668 Father Jacques Marquette takes over the Sault mission and founds the first permanent settlement on Michigan soil at Sault Ste. Marie.
- 1669 Louis Jolliet is guided east by way of the Detroit River, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario.
- 1671 Simon François, Sieur de St. Lusson, lands at the Sault, claims vast Great Lakes region, comprising most of western America, for Louis XIV.

St. Ignace is founded when Father Marquette builds a mission chapel.

First of the military outposts, Fort de Buade (later known as Fort Michilimackinac), is established at St. Ignace.

- 1673 Jolliet and Marquette travel down the Mississippi River.
- 1675 Father Marquette dies at Ludington.
- 1679 The **Griffon**, the first sailing vessel on the Great Lakes, is built by René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, and lost in a storm on Lake Michigan.

La Salle erects Fort Miami at the mouth of the St. Joseph River.

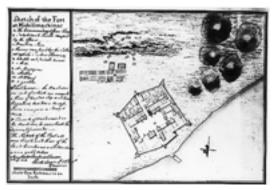


- 1681 Earliest known use of "Michigan" on a map.
- 1686 French build Fort St. Joseph at Port Huron.
- Father Claude Aveneau explores the upper reaches of the St. Joseph River; establishes 1690 mission on the present site of Niles.
- 1694 Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac is appointed commandant of the Michilimackinac (St. Ignace) post; remains until 1697.
- 1697 Fort St. Joseph is built at mission on the St. Joseph River (Niles).
- 1701 Detroit is founded as Fort Pontchartrain by Cadillac as a permanent settlement to protect and secure the fur trade.

Ste. Anne's Church, a log structure, is erected by Cadillac's men and dedicated two days after the founding of Detroit. Ste. Anne's is the second oldest continuously maintained Roman Catholic parish in the United States.

In the fall, Madame Cadillac and Madam Tonty arrive at the fort as the first European women in the region.

- 1712 British-inspired Indian raids begin, including the siege of Fort Pontchartrain.
- 1715 Fort Michilimackinac is reestablished on the southern shore of the Straits of Mackinac.

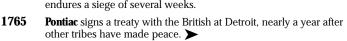


- 1756 France and England begin the Seven Years' War (also known as the French and Indian War).
- 1759 The French surrender to the English at Montreal; this marks the decline of French power in Michigan.
- 1760 British Major Robert Rogers receives the surrender of Detroit, after taking Great Lakes fortifications. About 2,000 people are within the stockade; warehouses found to contain furs worth \$500,000.
- 1761 The British occupy Fort Michilimackinac.
- 1762 Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, plans a conspiracy against British; calls for a council near Detroit in the spring.

The English take possession of the Sault.

1763 With the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles, France loses North American mainland possessions.

> Pontiac and followers enter the fort at Detroit in an abortive effort to capture it from Major Henry Gladwin by surprise attack. Detroit endures a siege of several weeks.



1775 Henry Hamilton takes command at Detroit.

1777 British conduct raids from Detroit into Kentucky.

1778 Construction begins on Fort Lernoult, Detroit. Daniel Boone brought to Detroit as a prisoner.

1779 Nearly 3,000 persons living in the Detroit area.

1781 Spanish forces from St. Louis take Fort St. Joseph (Niles); all residents are taken prisoner; the Spanish flag is raised. Raiders depart the next day and the fort reverts to British possession.

The British transfer garrison from Michilimackinac to a new fort on Mackinac Island.

- 1782 Moravians establish Indian mission near what is today Mount Clemens.
- 1783 The Treaty of Paris is signed, ending the Revolutionary War and including Michigan in the United States. The British control the Michigan area, however, for 13 more years.
- 1784 First ordinance passed by Congress governing the Northwest Territory.



- 1785 Congress passes first act relative to the disposal of western lands.

 Michigan appears for the first time on a map as a land division of the United States.

 Sloop *Otter* becomes the first vessel to navigate Lake Superior.
- 1786 Moravian Indian village near present-day Mount Clemens is abandoned.
- 1787 Congress enacts the Ordinance of 1787 (second Northwest Ordinance), outlining the government of the "Territory northwest of the Ohio River."
- 1788 The first stage of American territorial government is established under the Northwest Ordinance, except in British-occupied Michigan.
- 1791 The Americans under Arthur St. Clair suffer a major defeat at the hands of British-allied Indians in Ohio.
- 1792 Detroit, including settlements on both sides of the river, holds its first election, sending three representatives to the Parliament of Upper Canada.
- 1794 General Anthony Wayne decisively defeats Indians and allied British troops at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. near Toledo.
- The Jay Treaty is ratified by Congress. The British finally agree to relinquish all Northwest Territory lands.
 The Treaty of Greenville (Ohio) is signed. The first major Indian land treaty involving Michigan, it included land on the Detroit River, the Straits of Mackinac, and Mackinac
- 1796 The British withdraw their garrison from Detroit. The Stars and Stripes are raised for the first time on Michigan soil by Wayne's advance guard.
- **1798** Father Gabriel Richard comes to assist at Ste. Anne's in Detroit.
- 1799 The Territorial Assembly convenes at Cincinnati, Ohio. The county of Wayne (embracing all of the Michigan Territory) sends one representative, elected in the first local (Michigan) election held under United States rule.
- **1800** Wayne County circuit court created by act passed December 9.
- **1801** First post road established in Michigan.

Island.

- **1802** Detroit holds its first election following incorporation under an act passed January 18 by the Legislative Council at Chillicothe, Ohio.
- 1803 Ohio is admitted to the Union, excluding the strip of land that 30 years later will be known as the "Toledo strip." Michigan becomes part of the Territory of Indiana.
- 1804 United States land office established at Detroit.
- **1805** The Territory of Michigan is created, with Detroit as the capital.

Detroit is completely destroyed by fire.

General William Hull becomes the first territorial governor.

- **1805-6** Important commercial timbering begins, when sawmills are built on the St. Clair River to aid in rebuilding Detroit.
- **1806** Governor and judges authorized to lay out new town of Detroit after fire had destroyed the settlement.

Bank of Detroit chartered by the governor and judges; Congress disapproves the act on March 3, 1807.

1807 The Treaty of Detroit is signed by Chippewa, Ottawa, Wyandot, and Potawatomi tribes meeting with General Hull.

Duties paid to the United States on furs at Mackinac exceed \$40,000.

- **1808** American Fur Company founded by John Jacob Astor.
- **1809** The *Michigan Essay and Impartial Observer*, the state's first newspaper, is printed by James M. Miller on a press imported by Father Richard.

- 1810 The Michigan Territory's population is 4,762 and includes 32 slaves, most of whom are Native Americans.
- 1811 A memorial to Congress stresses the defenseless position of Michigan and begs for military aid against the Indians.
- 1812 The United States declares war against England. Father Richard urges the population to support the American cause.

Fort Mackinac falls to the British, who know of the declaration of war earlier than the frontier post.

Hull surrenders Detroit to General Isaac Brock without firing a shot. Hull later is courtmartialed

1813 At the Battle of River Raisin at Monroe, the main body of Americans is forced to surrender and promised protection from Indian allies of British.

> The massacre of the River Raisin occurs. This proves to be a powerful factor in uniting American sentiment for expulsion of the British from the west.

Commander Oliver Perry's victory on Lake Erie and William Henry Harrison's defeat of Proctor's army in Canada (in which Tecumseh is slain) end hostilities on northwestern American border.

Harrison, departing for Washington, leaves Colonel (later General) **Lewis Cass** as the military governor at Detroit. Cass continues, under presidential appointment, as the governor of the Michigan Territory for 18 years.

1814 The Americans make an unsuccessful attempt to recapture Mackinac Island. The Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812; the British leave Mackinac Island.

- 1815 Governor Cass and judges adopt legislation reincorporating Detroit (city) and restoring a restricted municipal government.
- 1816 Part of Michigan Territory given to the state of Indiana.

First recorded shipwreck on Lake Superior occurs at Whitefish Point with the schooner Invincible.

Due to unfavorable reports on Lower Peninsula lands by the Surveyor General, Congress decides not to place military bounty lands in Michigan.



- 1817 The Catholepistemiad, or University of Michigania, is incorporated. John Jacob Astor establishes a trading post at Mackinac Island, centering his fur-trading activities there.
- 1818 Public land sales begin at Detroit; immigration from the East is under way.

Michigan's first Protestant church, the Methodist Episcopal, is erected along the banks of the River Rouge.

Walk-in-the-Water. the first steamboat on the Upper Great Lakes, arrives at Detroit on its maiden voyage.



- 1819 William Woodbridge is elected as the first delegate to Congress from the Michigan Territory.
 - With the Treaty of Saginaw, Governor Cass obtains for the United States about 6,000,000 acres of Michigan land, marking the beginning of the Indian exodus from the territory.
- 1820 The population of the territory is 8,096; Detroit, Mackinac, and Sault Ste. Marie are its largest towns.

The Treaty at Sault Ste. Marie is negotiated by Cass; Indians cede a 16-square-mile tract on the St. Mary's River for a fort site, but reserve fishing rights.

- 1821 Cass negotiates a treaty at Chicago, gaining from the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi virtually all Michigan territory south of the Grand River that had not previously been ceded
- 1822 Public stagecoaches begin running from Detroit.

Fort Brady established at Sault Ste. Marie.

Dr. William Beaumont at Mackinac begins study of human digestive processes by observing through a hole in the stomach of Alexis St. Martin.

1823 General Hugh Brady and soldiers construct Fort Brady at the Sault, ending domination of the region by the British.

Congress advances the Territory of Michigan to the second governmental grade, authorizing the Legislative Council of 9 members presidentially appointed and 18 locally elected. Enacted laws are subject to congressional approval. The first capitol, in Detroit, is built.

Father Gabriel Richard takes office as the territorial delegate to Congress (1823-1825), the only priest to serve in Congress until 1971.

United States government opens second land office in Michigan at Monroe.

- 1824 On motion of Father Richard, Congress appropriates \$10,000 for a survey of the Great Sauk Trail (now U.S. 12) between Detroit and Chicago and makes an additional appropriation in 1825.
- 1825 The opening of the Erie Canal in New York facilitates settlement of Michigan and shipping of farm products to the East.
- 1827 Fort Shelby, Detroit, is demolished.
- 1828 **First capitol** occupied in Detroit on May 5.

State Library is established.

State Historical Society organized (now Historical Society of Michigan).

- 1829 "Cabinet Counties" are established, named after members of President Jackson's administration (Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson, and Van Buren).
- 1830 Michigan's population is 31,639.

Fur trade reaches its peak. Its subsequent decline leaves some regions without commercial activity.

Michigan issues a railway charter to the Detroit & Pontiac Railway, the first incorporated railway in the limits of old Northwest Territory.

1831 General Lewis Cass, appointed secretary of war by President Jackson in July, resigns the governorship.

> Stevens T. Mason, at age 19, becomes the acting governor of the Michigan Territory.

Federal government opens third land office in Michigan at White Pigeon.

- 1832 A seven-week cholera epidemic devastates Detroit; Belle Isle is used for quarantine. Father Richard, priest, legislator, and educator, dies of cholera, contracted while nursing the sick.
- 1833 Steamboat *Michigan* launched at Detroit.
- 1834 The Territorial Legislature petitions Congress for permission to form a state government. Southern states protest the admission of another free state; Ohio protests the boundary Michigan claims. Congress refuses to grant its permission.

The second cholera epidemic at Detroit begins with the death of Governor George B. Porter. It wipes out one-seventh of the population.



1835 Pioneers in Macomb and adjoining counties discover oil.

> The Ohio Legislature passes an act asserting claims to the "Toledo strip" along its northern boundary.

Governor Mason calls out the militia as the "Toledo War" begins with more anger than gunfire. Border incidents continue into September, and jurisdictional wrangling goes on through all of 1836.

A convention at Detroit drafts a state constitution in preparation for statehood.

Stevens T. Mason, who had been removed from office by President Jackson because of Mason's action on the Toledo question, is elected as the first governor of the state of Michigan at 23 years of age.

1836 Congress accepts Michigan's constitution. It agrees to admit the state upon condition that Michigan accept Ohio's boundary in return for four-fifths of the Upper Peninsula.

> At the first convention of assent held at Ann Arbor in September, the conditions set by Congress are rejected.

The horse-powered Erie & Kalamazoo Railroad chartered in 1833 reaches Adrian from Toledo. **The first steam locomotive in the state** is put in operation on this line the following year, as the railroad is the first west of New York State to



Democrats call a convention on their own initiative and assent to entry into the Union. Whig opponents take no part in this "frost-bitten" convention held in Ann Arbor in December.

Daily stages from Detroit begin carrying mail and passengers to Sandusky, Chicago, and central Michigan; a railroad between Detroit and Jackson is under construction; shipbuilding becomes important along nearby rivers and lakeshores. During seven months of navigation, 200,000 people pass through Detroit's port.

Bituminous coal mining begins in Michigan.

A Quaker preacher employs an underground railroad to bring slaves into Cass County, and movement of fugitive and freed slaves into the state begins.

1837 Detroit's population is almost 10,000.

> Michigan is admitted to the Union as a free state as Arkansas is admitted as a slave state. The Panic of 1837 strikes Michigan.

Michigan experiences its first strike as journeymen carpenters parade through Detroit

1838 Detroit elects Michigan's first school board under state law.

The Grand Rapids furniture industry has its beginning.

1839 Effects of the Panic of 1837 help break Democratic monopoly, and Whigs carry state election. Michigan State Prison located at Jackson.

1841 **Dr. Douglass Houghton**, the first state geologist, reports on rich copper deposits of the Lake Superior region and makes cautious mention of the possibility of iron ore in the Marquette district.

The University of Michigan, reorganized and offering college curriculum, opens at Ann Arbor.



1842 Indians cede Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale, the last Indian holdings in the state.

1843 Former Governor Stevens T. Mason dies in New York City.

U.S.S. Michigan, first iron ship in the U.S. Navy, is launched.

Celebrated Ontonagon copper boulder arrives in Detroit from Lake Superior for exhibition.

Albion College opens its doors.

1844 Surveyor William A. Burt (inventor of the solar compass and other important items) accidentally makes the first iron ore discovery at Negaunee.

> General Lewis Cass, former governor, former secretary of war, and ambassador to France, is elected U.S. senator from Michigan.

The first major copper operations begin in the Keweenaw district.

Olivet College is founded.

- 1845 Dr. Douglass Houghton drowns near Eagle River on October 14.
- 1846 Dr. A. C. Van Raalte, Dutch secessionist pastor, sails from Rotterdam with 53 Hollanders; they form the nucleus of western Michigan's large Dutch settlements begun the following winter.

The Jackson Mining Company begins operations on the site of Burt's 1844 discovery, first iron ore mining in the state.

Michigan becomes the first English-speaking jurisdiction in the world to abolish capital punishment.

- 1847 The old capitol in Detroit is used for the last time by the state legislature, which makes Lansing the new, permanent capital of the state.
- King James Strang, a Mormon leader, builds a tabernacle and lays out 1848 the town of St. James on Big Beaver Island.
 - The state legislature meets for the first session in the new capitol at Lansing.
- 1849 The first annual statewide fair is held at Detroit.

The Cliff Mine pays a dividend of \$60,000, the first sum of this magnitude distributed in North America on copper investment.

Michigan's manufactured goods are valued at more than \$11,000,000. There are 558 sawmills operating in the state.

- 1850 Michigan's population is 397,654.
 - The second state constitution is approved.

1851 Lumber mill output of Saginaw amounts to 92,000,000 board feet. Elizabeth D. Camp receives first academic degree conferred upon a woman in Michigan.

1852 The Michigan State Normal School is dedicated at Ypsilanti. It is the first teacher-training institute west of the Alleghenies.

First teacher's association in Michigan is organized.

- 1853 Construction begins on the Soo Canal.
- 1854 The Republican party is formed and named at meetings held in Jackson.

Michigan School for the Deaf created at Flint.

1855 The **Soo Ship Canal and Locks** are completed and turned over to the state. Michigan Agricultural College (Michigan

State University) is established. It becomes the nation's first land grant college.

1856 Abraham Lincoln gives an antislavery address in Kalamazoo.



1857 General Lewis Cass is appointed U.S. Secretary of State and is succeeded in the U.S. Senate by Zachariah Chandler.

> The Christian Reformed Church in North America is founded by Michigan's Dutch settlers, following secession from the Reformed Church.

The Agricultural College of the State of Michigan opens its doors in what is now East Lansing, the first college of its kind in the United States.



- 1858 The Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad completes its line connecting Detroit and Grand Haven.
- 1859 First elevated iron ore dock constructed at Marquette.

Grand Trunk Railroad opens line from Detroit to Port Huron.

Michigan Asylum for the Insane opens at Kalamazoo on August 24.

Classes begin at Adrian College.

soldiers see service.

1860 Michigan's population is 749,113. Successful well drilling of salt begins in Saginaw County.

1861 Thomas A. Edison erects his first electrical battery and begins experiments at Fort Gratiot (Port Huron). The First Michigan Regiment leaves Fort Wayne. It is the first western regiment to reach Washington during the Civil War, in which 90,000 Michigan



- 1862 Passes to Canada required to prevent Michigan citizens from fleeing military service.
- 1863 Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (the oldest railroad labor union in the Western Hemisphere) founded in Michigan.
- 1864 First Michigan Colored Infantry is mustered in. Michigan's black troops number 1,673. Bessemer steel is first manufactured in any appreciable amount in America, at Wyandotte. The copper lode at Calumet is discovered. Michigan's production of copper has for 17 years exceeded that of any other state (holds first place until 1887).
- 1865 Jefferson Davis captured by members of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry.
- 1866 Michigan statesman Lewis Cass dies on June 17. Hope College is established in Holland, Michigan.
- 1867 Constitutional convention convened in Lansing, voters reject proposed revision.
- 1869 Memorial Day first observed in Michigan.

Nation's first "university hospital" established at the University of Michigan.

1870 Michigan's population is 1,054,670.

The value of agricultural produce for the year is estimated at \$88,000,000.

Annual lumber production for the state averages 3 million board feet, and is the highest in the country for a period of 20 years.

1871 Forest fires rayage the state, destroying towns and leveling thousands of acres of valuable pine, causing losses in the millions of dollars.

Calumet & Hecla Mining Company consolidates local (Calumet) mining interests,

controlling one of world's richest copper districts.

Calumet becomes a company town typical of the copper country.

Negaunee's average annual iron ore production reaches 135.000 tons.

1872 Republic Mine opens; the 88 percent pure iron deposits permit continuous high-level production for 55 years. Construction begins on present state capitol building.

The Michigan Grange is organized to help Michigan farmers.



1873 Financial panic begins early in the year.

Michigan Department of Public Health created, fifth in the nation.

The *Detroit News* begins publication.

1874 Pioneer Society of the State of Michigan organized.

The Portage Lake canal is opened across the Keweenaw Peninsula. Mackinac Island becomes the second national park in the United States, preceded only

1875 by Yellowstone.

1876 At the Centennial Exposition (Philadelphia), Detroit is given first place among world's stove-manufacturing centers and receives prizes for shoes. The best display of furniture from the United States credited to Grand Rapids. Michigan has the finest exhibit in forestry products and fruit.

An Ontonagon mine operator, after seeing Alexander Graham Bell's invention at the Philadelphia exposition, builds the first telephone system (20 miles) in Michigan.

1877 Active operations begin in the mines of the Menominee iron district.

1878 Eastern Michigan Asylum for the Insane opens at Pontiac on August 1.

1879 Six years after the cornerstone was laid, the new state capitol at Lansing is dedicated and occupied, several months after completion at a cost of more than \$1,500,000.

1880 Michigan's population is 1,636,937.

Iron ore is discovered in large quantities at Bessemer in the Gogebic Range.

Detroit Baseball Company is organized.

Michigan School for the Blind opens in Lansing.

1881 The Soo Ship Canal and Locks are taken over by the federal government.

> Railroad ferry service connects Upper and Lower Peninsulas, making the Upper Peninsula readily accessible for the first time.

A permanent hydroelectric plant is erected at Grand Rapids — one of the earliest anywhere.

Another devastating series of fires scorch the state, with the newly established American Red Cross sending help in its first disaster relief.

1882 Josiah W. Begole elected governor on the Fusion ticket, interrupting an almost unbroken Republican rule that began in 1854.

1883 A compulsory school attendance law is enacted.

Half of copper mined in United States since 1847 has come from Michigan.

Cherry orchards in the upper fruit belt first begin to bear.

1884 Working of iron ore deposits of the Gogebic Range begins, when transportation facilities are acquired.

John and Thomas Clegg build Michigan's first self-propelled vehicle, a four-wheeled steamer auto.

Ferris Institute is established in Big Rapids.

1885 A series of lumber strikes occur in Saginaw Valley, and the militia is called out.

The ten-hour workday law is passed.

Michigan Soldiers' Home established in Grand Rapids.

1886 Prospecting for oil and gas and first commercial production in St. Clair and Saginaw Counties begin.

Michigan Mining School is opened at Houghton.

Alma College is organized, opens in 1887.